

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In the interview summary that accompanied the final action mailed 9/15/09, applicants were offered an examiner's amendment to claim 23 to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants declined the offer. In a telephonic interview on 11/5/09, applicants expressed interest in amending claim 23 to place the condition for allowance. Applicants submitted a supplemental amendment on 12/15/09 in an after-final amendment that has been entered. Applicants have also filed a terminal disclaimer over a copending U. S. application 10/520,793.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satyanarayana R. Gudibande whose telephone number is 571-272-8146. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4.30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cecilia Tsang can be reached on 571-272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/SATYANARAYANA R. GUDIBANDE/
Examiner, Art Unit 1654

/Andrew D Kosar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1654